

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2001-195-W - ORDER NO. 2001-614 ✓

JUNE 26, 2001

IN RE: Carolina Water Service, Inc. – Transfer of)	ORDER RATIFYING
Water Customers in the Idlewood)	SINGLE
Subdivision.)	COMMISSIONER'S
)	ORDER

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) for consideration of the May 9, 2001 Order of Commissioner James Blake Atkins (Order No. 2001-434) in this matter concerning transfer of water customers of Carolina Water Service in the Idlewood subdivision from well water to bulk water. Commission Regulation 103-886 requires that the full Commission consider a single Commissioner's Order at the next scheduled Commission meeting with proper legal notice, and take such action as the full Commission deems appropriate. We have examined Commissioner Atkins' Order at the Commission meeting following the issuance of the Order, and believe that the Order should be ratified, and therefore approved by the entire Commission.

The difficulty faced by Commissioner Atkins was that the water customers in the Idlewood subdivision were being served with well water contaminated with ethylene dibromide (EDB). Although Carolina Water Service was attempting to eliminate the contaminant, it found out that the City of West Columbia was willing to enter into a bulk water contract to replace the water currently provisioned from the wells in the Idlewood

subdivision. Under such an arrangement, potable water was immediately available. Even though the Carolina Water Service rate would result in a monthly average increase of some \$3.57 per customer, Carolina Water Service stated a belief that the increase would be offset by the benefits from removal of EDB from the Idlewood water customers' water supply. Commissioner Atkins adopted this view as well, and issued the aforementioned Order, allowing Carolina Water Service to replace the well water with bulk water from the City of West Columbia.

After a review of the situation, we agree with Commissioner Atkins' view and we ratify Order No. 2001-434. It appears that our failure to ratify the action of the single Commissioner would expose approximately 77 Idlewood water customers to contaminated well water. This we will not do, even though the potential risks from said contamination do not appear to be significant. In any event, we believe the better course is for the customers to be served by bulk water from the City of West Columbia, even though a small rate increase results. Our intent from the ratification of Commissioner Atkins' Order is to allow the Idlewood subdivision to receive bulk water from the City of West Columbia on a permanent basis, due to the circumstances as outlined above.

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This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

(SEAL)